

## Thy Kingdom Come

### PRAYER HANDBOOK







Kia ora! Welcome to Thy Kingdom Come! Each year our Movement joins in with this global call to prayer over the 10 days before Pentecost. With Christians all around the world we pray for God's will to be done, specifically praying for 5 people each to come to know the love of God in Jesus. As a Movement, we joined in recently to welcome our new Assistant Bishop, Anashuya Fletcher. At her ordination, we heard how the hand of God is stretched out to us, and in turn we stretch ours out to God and to others. So we've themed this resource around the different postures our hands take as we pray for others. We pray this is a precious and fruitful time of prayer for you.

### Using your handbook

### Step 1: Identifying your 5

Before we begin our 10 days of prayer, you can start asking God now who are the 5 people you are going to pray for. You are of course welcome to pray for more than 5! They might be people who don't yet know Jesus, or perhaps people who are struggling in their faith. Spend time listening to God. To help you identify your people, you might like to ask yourself:

- Who are the people who are friendly and curious about how I live my faith?
- Who are the people who just keep popping into my head?
- Have I had any surprise encounters with people recently?
- Who in my family could I pray for?

### Step 2: Identify who to do this prayer journey with

You might do this prayer journey alone, and that's OK, but there's something about praying with and alongside others. Consider gathering with others to do this time of prayer with. This might be your family, household, some friends, or maybe your small group. There are activities to do if you have smaller people in your life - we can all pray for 5.

You don't need to share your names with others if that's not appropriate. But as we pray alongside each other we are encouraged, and can celebrate when we see the power of God at work.

#### Step 3: Pray!

Each day you'll find an introduction, scripture, activities, and a shared intercessory prayer. Read on, and get to it!

# CDay 1. Whakawhetai: raising our hands in celebration

Pray that God brings to mind the qualities that God loves about your five people. Write these below. Can you share these with your five as an encouragement?

56

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy...

E whakawhetai ana ahau ki tōku Atua i ōku maharatanga katoa ki a koutou, i āku īnoinga katoa, e puta ana tāku īnoi mō koutou i ngā wā katoa i runga i te hari...

Philippians 1:3-4



### high-fives, applause, hugs

Starting with thanksgiving is a great way to begin any prayer, and a great way to begin our 10-day journey of praying for five people to come to know Jesus.

We use our hands to affirm others in many ways: applause, hugs, high-fives, fist-bumps, hand-shakes, Mexican waves. And we read of God's delight over all of creation, including every person, uniquely and wonderfully made (Psalm 139). So today as we pray we bring our gratitude and celebration of the people God has placed on our hearts to pray for.

### ka īnoi tātou | let's pray

O God, we lift our hands in gratitude and praise for the splendour of your creation, where every corner shines with the brilliance of your handiwork. We pray that \_\_\_\_\_\_ be enveloped in your Holy Spirit, overflowing with joy and delight. May they bask in the awareness of your boundless love, and your utter delight in them, igniting moments of celebration in our midst. With hearts brimming with thankfulness and hands raised in reverence, let us declare your magnificence and extol your glory, for in you, we find the true essence of joy. Amen.

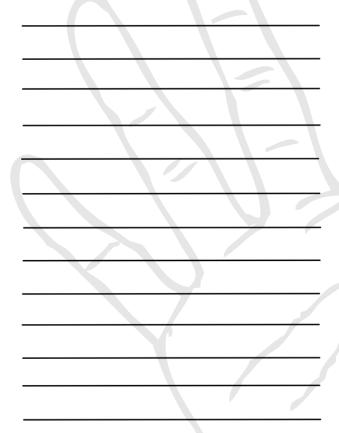
### for smaller hands...

Choose one of your five people and think about what you like about them. Draw a picture or write a short note to let them know what you're grateful to God for about them. Then share it with them!



### CDay 2. Manaakitanga Hands of welcome and hospitality

Ask God to reveal opportunities to extend the welcome, the manaaki of God, to your 5 people. This might be through acts of hospitality, thoughtful care, or something else. Write these below (and act on them!)



#### ka īnoi tātou | let's pray

Lord Jesus, with open hands you embraced all who sought your presence. May our homes and hearts echo your welcoming embrace, becoming sanctuaries where every soul finds solace and community. We ask that \_\_\_\_\_ may experience the warmth of your manaakitanga, knowing that your welcome is for them, just as they are. May our hands, guided by our unique gifts and talents, extend outward to embrace them, eagerly offering comfort, assistance, and companionship. May those who encounter you through us recognise that the door of God's kingdom is always open to welcome them in. Amen.

### for smaller hands...

With a parent or caregiver, make some baking for one of your 5 people.



56

Ko tāku kupu anō tēnei ki a koutou; īnoi, ā, ka hoatu ki a koutou; e rapu, ā, ka kite koutou; pātukia, ā, ka uakina ki a koutou.

So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Luke 11:9

### come on in...

Our God invites us into radical acceptance as beloved children of the kingdom through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We see foretastes of this generous hospitality in Jesus' life as he welcomes, sits, and eats with people, just as they are. We can knock at Jesus' door any time and know we are welcomed home. Today, let's pray that our 5 people will know the welcome of God, just as they are.

### CDay 3. Mahi Hands which work

If possible, find pictures of the work places of your five people. Use the pictures as a lectio divina exercise. What do you notice about those places which is an invitation to deeper prayer?



#### ka īnoi tātou | let's pray

Heavenly Father, will you bless \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ abundantly in the endeavours of their hands. May their occupations, paid or voluntary, yield fruitfulness and satisfaction and bring vitality and purpose. Grant them enduring strength and unwavering perseverance to fulfil their responsibilities with diligence and joy. We pray especially for those of our 5 who toil tirelessly and thanklessly, and those who seek employment in vain. Inspire us to create a world where extending a helping hand to our neighbours and supporting them in their chosen vocations is not merely a duty but a joyous calling. Amen.

### 56

Ā, i tētahi atu hāpati ka tomo ia ki te whare karakia, ka whakaako: i reira anō tētahi tangata, ko tōna ringa matau kua memenge...Nā, ka tirotiro ia ki a rātou katoa, ka mea ki taua tangata, Totoro mai tōu ringa. Ā, pērā ana ia: nā, kua ora anō tōna ringa.

On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled...He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored.

Luke 6: 6 and 10

#### meaningful mahi



We are created for the joyful mahi of kaitiakitanga by a Creator who also works. In the gospels we see Jesus restoring hands (and legs, bodies, minds and more) so that people can take their place as members of their community. What do each of your 5 do for work - whether that's paid or unpaid, or perhaps in education? Are their roles secure? Do they experience joy and fulfilment in their work? Do they have what they need to thrive? Spend time today praying God's blessing over these spaces of your 5 people.

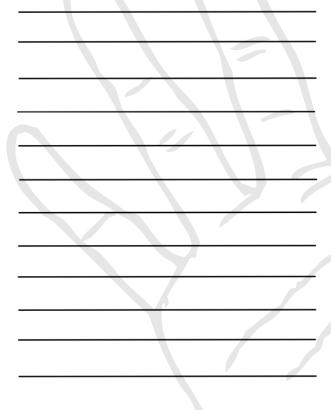
### for smaller hands...

Offer to help with a job today for one of your five people if you can. Maybe at school, or around the house?



### C Day 4. Okiokitia Hands which rest

Picture each of your people walking with God in the garden in the cool of the day. Hold that image before God and ask for refreshment and re-creation for each of your people. If any words or pictures come to mind, write them below.



### ka īnoi tātou | let's pray

56

Ā, nō te whitu o ngā rā i oti ai i te Atua tāna mahi i mahi ai; nā, ka okioki ia i te rā whitu i āna mahi katoa i mahia e ia.

Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Genesis 2:2

### hangouts with God

Yesterday we prayed for the flourishing of the work that our 5 people do. Today, Sunday we pray for them as they lay their hands down; for their rhythms of rest and re-creation in body, mind and spirit.

Pray that they might be able to have the space to do the things that refresh them today whether that be connection with others, nature, hobbies and interests, exercise. Pray also that they grow in understanding that rest is a gift from their loving Creator and an invitation for deeper relationship.

Almighty King, will you guide our 5 people to embrace the sacred balance of rest and labour, recognising that in rest, we honour your design for us. Grant them precious moments of stillness where they can release the burdens that weigh upon them. We plead that \_\_\_\_\_\_ be unburdened from the weight of physical, mental, and spiritual struggles, walking uplifted in the light of your joy. May all of our hands be open to receive the Sabbath's gift, and may our spirits find rejuvenation in your boundless grace. May we all discover sanctuary beneath your sheltering wings and know the splendour of your holiness. Amen.

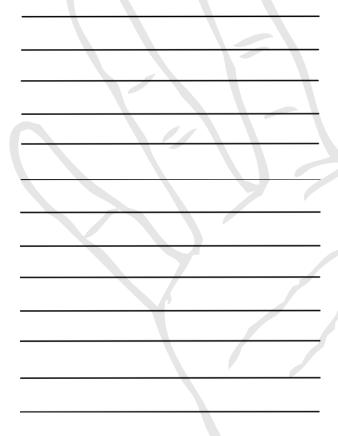
### for smaller hands...

Do you have a set of scales at home? Choose 5 heavy things and put them on the scales. You might like to choose things that start with the same letter of the alphabet as your 5 people. Take those things off the scales, one by one, and pray for each person as you do that God might lift of the things they find heavy in their lives.



## **C**Day 5. Hands in submission.

Find 5 small stones or other small objects to represent your 5 people. Carry them with you for the rest of Thy Kingdom Come, praying that your people will begin to allow themselves to be carried by the Good Shepherd.



### ka īnoi tātou | let's pray

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Suppose one of you has a 100 sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the 99 in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home.

Kātahi a Īhu ka mea ki āna ākonga, "Ki te mea tētahi kia haere mai ki te whai i ahau, me whakakāhore ia e ia anō, me amo tōna rīpeka, ka aru ai i ahau."

Luke 15:4-6

### pick me up!

As small children we raise our hands to be picked up. We understand our need for our caregivers, even if sometimes they fall short. But we have a loving Father who never falls short; who pursues us relentlessly. But asking God to pick us up is a choice we make which puts body to our understanding that we need God and cannot do it on our own.

Pray today that your five people would grow in their understanding of their need for God, the parts of their lives where they place themselves above God, and would begin to reach out to their Creator.

Merciful Lord, with hearts overflowing with gratitude, we acknowledge the depth of your forgiveness, and the boundless mercy you extend to us. Grant us, and our five people, the courage to surrender ourselves completely to you. May our submission be a testament to the transforming power of your love in our lives. We lift \_\_\_\_\_ before you and pray that they will understand their need of you, and hear the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

### for smaller hands...

Ask your parent or caregiver to set up this prayer activity for you! Get them to hide 5 small things (like lego pieces), representing your 5 people, in a box of flour or sand. Now use a spoon to carefully find your 5 people! When you find each one, pray that they will know that Jesus is their shepherd who knows them by name.

